

## MILLER TRANSIT PLAN TO LIFT TAX ON FRANCHISE

Surface Lines Alone Would  
Save \$2,000,000 by City  
Partnership.

### LEGAL FEES ENORMOUS

Life of Taxation Committee  
Assured by Assembly

Vote Yesterday.

OFFERS OWNERSHIP BILL

George N. Jesse Proposes an

Alternative to Governor's

Traction Measure.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Albany, Feb. 2.

Gov. Miller's proposal to combine

New York's competing transit lines

into one comprehensive, unified system

under municipal ownership would

relieve the surface and elevated lines of

the burden of special franchise taxes

and by that single and simple process

go a long way toward making those

routes self-maintaining. By the same

process, the Governor's plan would

operate to make possible a lower

rather than a higher fare.

The absurdity of the cry raised by

the Tammany-Hylan-Hearst propa-

gandists that the Governor's plan is

designed purely as a fare raising grab

was still more evident today when the

scope of his recommendations was

understood more clearly. The city's

sorry transit mess is losing more and

more of its charm as a political issue

as the merit of the Governor's plan is

understood.

**Taxation Committee Continued.**

The Assembly adopted today a resolu-

tion reported by its Ways and Means

Committee continuing the life of the

Davenport-Judson committee on tax-

ation. A similar resolution was reported

favorably by the Finance Committee of

the Senate and action will be taken in

the Senate next week.

With this sanction the taxation com-

mittee is given an appropriation to con-

tinue its investigation of assessing in-

come and will devote itself al-

most burdensome and unwieldy taxes

to study of the special franchise tax

levied by the State against traction and

other corporations.

The special franchise tax is assessed

by the State on tangible and intangible

## Assistant House Whip Is Only 25 Years Old

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Se-

lection of Representative

McLeod of Michigan, who is 25

years old and serving his first

term as assistant Republican

whip of the House was an-

nounced today.

Veteran members of Congress

said it was the first time within

their recollection that a first

term Representative had been

chosen House whip by either of

the parties.

**BILL TO REVISE CITY**

**CHARTER IS OFFERED**

Provides for Commission of 21

to Effect Retrenchment

and Reorganization.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Albany, Feb. 2.

The bill creating a commission on re-

organization and retrenchment for New

York city, backed by the Brooklyn

Chamber of Commerce, was introduced

today by Senator Burlingame and As-

semblyman Wells. The commission is

to be made up of two Senators, four

Assemblymen and fifteen citizens of New

York. The expenses, not exceeding

\$50,000, are to be paid by the city. A

statement given out in connection with

the bill says that the New York city

budget has grown in ten years from

\$174,000,000 to \$346,000,000, the tax

rate from \$1.75 to \$2.45, and the bonded

indebtedness from \$310,000,000 to \$1,

222,000,000.

The charter under which the city is

operating, says the statement, "was

adopted twenty years ago. Since its

adoption it has been amended in more

than a hundred places, until now it has be-

come a patchwork of confusing and

cumbersome details. Departments and

bureaus are not properly coordinating

functions are misplaced, duplication and

overlapping exist, and as a result there

is much waste of effort and money in

the administration of the city's busi-

ness.

The people of the city generally are

convinced that an unprejudiced, non-

partisan commission appointed under

authority of law and empowered to make

a searching and constructive study of

the existing conditions and to make

## POLICE HIGHERUPS FACING INDICTMENT

Continued from First Page.

"I regard the information as of great

value."

A surprise was sprung when Mr.

Whitman called the Grand Jury

appeared as a witness against Leo Mat-

son, a fireman who has not been men-

tioned before. He was merely sum-

moned for identification by Witness

Armstrong, but is regarded as a man

who is in a position to supply several

missing links of information and to help

in exposing the alliance which Mr. Whit-

man believes to have existed between

men who steal motor cars and the police.

This member of the city's uniformed

fire force is Stephen Lucas, formerly

stationed in the fire house at Twenty-

ninth street and Seventh avenue. He

was indicted, it was made known yester-

day, early in January on three charges

of grand larceny and receiving stolen

property in connection with three stolen

Buick cars. He was released in \$5,000

bail, and the whole case was suppressed,

because Lucas, according to Assistant

District Attorney Harold Warren Has-

tings, "came through" and agreed to help

in the capture of a gang of motor thieves.

Before the regular Grand Jury Lucas

appeared as a witness against Leo Mat-

son, a butcher of Long Island City, who

was indicted a few days ago as a man

who had sold one of the Buick cars

which got Fireman Lucas into trouble.

The first of the three cars, it is charged,

was found in Lucas's possession on De-

cember 16 last by Sergeant George J. An-

draws of the police automobile squad.

The two other Lucas had sold to other

Assemblymen and fifteen citizens of New

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## SEIZURE OF GERMAN CUSTOMS IS URGED

Continued from First Page.

their respective zones on the left bank

of the Rhine.

Second, that the Allies establish im-

mediately in their respective zones cus-

tomers cordons which would separate the

German occupied territory from that not

occupied.

Third, that the Allies unite without

delay for the purpose of establishing a

customs administration, including tariff

distribution of receipts and similar pro-

visions.

The Temps concludes: "Germany

proposes to talk; we intend to act, and

French opinion will appreciate this."

Germany is told exactly how to elimi-

nate the 75,000,000 marks deficit in her

1920 budget in the report to the

Allies of the conference of financial

experts held in Brussels, made public

here today.

Certain German expenses are declared

to have been multiplied 75 times over

those of 1919 and certain German taxes

are shown to be far below those the

allied populations are paying. The re-

port says:

"Many figures in the ordinary budget

seem to have been established by an ad-

ministration and Parliament equally de-

sirous of showing the world the precar-

ious financial condition of Germany and

her difficult situation."

If the various recommendations made

are followed, the budget should be speed-

ily balanced, says the report. Thus,

with a continuation of Germany's eco-

nomie recovery the experts declare that

Germany "in a relatively short period

can meet her treaty obligations through

taxation, without continuing to increase

her floating debt or inflate her currency."

The report says the 1919 and 1920

budgets of Germany carried a number

of credits which were only partially dis-

bursed, such as 16,000,000 marks for the

allied armies of occupation expenses,

of which only 4,500,000 marks was

repaid. The budget for 1920 carried

42,000,000 marks for execution of the

peace treaty, while only 17,000,000

marks had been paid out up to

December 1 last.

Items not justified or greatly multi-

plied over previous appropriations are

## GERMAN EXPORT TAXES LIKELY TO BE REDUCED

Continued from First Page.

London Conference Expected

to Shade Reparations.

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Feb. 2.—The conference

called by the Supreme Council for Lon-

don February 28, to which the Germans

will be invited, will not be to pronounce

an irrevocable sentence regarding re-

parations, from which the Germans will

not be able to appeal, it was authori-

tatively stated here today. The con-

ference, rather, will be designed to pro-

duce a declaration of the principles of

Germany's indebtedness.

It is even probable, it is stated, that

the 12 per cent. tax on Germany's ex-

ports, provided for in the Paris terms,

may be altered, although the principle

of the right to impose such a tax will

be retained. The export tax measure,

it is asserted here, was strictly a French

proposal, advanced for the purpose of

guaranteeing the fullest protection from

future German aggression.

Invitations to Germany to attend the

conference will be despatched in a few

days, and the British officials do not

even consider the possibility of Ger-

many's refusing to attend. They declare

it will be only worse for Germany if

she declines.

The Supreme Council fully expected

German protests on the reparations an-

nouncement, but as a matter of fact,

the protests are not so great as an-

anticipated. In view of the objections

taken by Germany at the time of the

Peace Conference.

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